

Government Response to the BP Oil Spill

View up-to-date information on the Gulf Coast at <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill>

Innovative Technologies

July 2010

The Interagency Alternative Technology Assessment Program

EPA has joined other government agencies in the Interagency Alternative Technology Assessment Program (IATAP), a centralized process for citizens, manufacturers and vendors to submit possible technology solutions in five areas of response technology: Oil Sensing Improvements to Response and Detection, Oil Wellhead Control and Submerged Oil Response, Traditional Oil Spill Response Technologies, Alternative Oil Spill Response Technologies, and Oil Spill Damage Assessment and Restoration. EPA has primary responsibility for reviewing submissions deemed "Alternative Oil Spill Response Technologies," which includes in situ burning, alternative chemical and biological treatments and innovative applications not commonly used for oil spill response.

Once a submission reaches EPA, it is quickly evaluated by the appropriate technical experts. EPA's experts then categorize each submission as: immediately deployable; does not support the current incident; or requires further evaluation. For submissions requiring further evaluation, EPA may seek more information from the vendor/submitter. It is possible that this could include lab testing for toxicity or field testing for feasibility.

Relying on the Best Science

It is essential that new technologies are properly evaluated for potential environmental impacts. Under the Clean Water Act, some products, including chemicals such as dispersants or bioremediation agents that use microscopic organisms to eat or neutralize harmful chemicals in the environment, must be listed on the National Contingency Plan (NCP) Product Schedule before use in America's waters. The NCP listing process ensures that new approaches have a sound scientific basis. EPA stands ready to assist manufacturers through this NCP process and to expeditiously review submissions.

Submit Your Technology Solution

If you have a possible technology solution, please submit your proposal to the IATAP for review by visiting www.epa.gov/bpspill/techsolution.

The IATAP process is based upon a Broad Agency Announcement soliciting the submission of ideas from the public in the form of white papers and has been used to organize and manage ideas and technology assistance offers.



If you have already provided a submission under the previous system, you do not need to resubmit via the IATAP Web site. Those determined responsive to the situation were shared with the appropriate decision-makers either in the U.S. Coast Guard and/or BP.

Due to the volume of submissions, it is difficult for the IATAP to provide updates regarding the status of your submission as your idea moves through the Interagency review process. You will be notified if your technology solution has been accepted for use.

For more information

Restoration effort: www.restorethegulf.gov

EPA response & validated environmental air and water sampling results:

www.epa.gov/bpspill

CDC response: emergency.cdc.gov/gulfoilspill2010

National Park Service: (updates about potential park closures, resources at risk, and NPS actions to protect vital park space and wildlife) www.nps.gov/aboutus/oil-spill-response.htm

Fish and Wildlife Service: (updates along the Gulf Coast and the status of national wildlife refuges) www.fws.gov/home/dhoilspill

NOAA Fisheries Service: (daily updates on fishing closures) sero.nmfs.noaa.gov

Call Centers

Joint Information Center: (713) 323-1670 or (713) 323-1671

Medical Support Line/Poison Control: (for oil spill health related questions) (800) 222-1222

Report oiled shoreline or request volunteer information: (866) 448-5816

Submit alternative response technology, services or products: (281) 366-5511

Submit your vessel for the Vessel of Opportunity Program: (866) 279-7983

Submit a claim for damages: (800) 440-0858

Report oiled wildlife: (866) 557-1401